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Vice-Senior General meets Head of European Union Military Staff via video conferencing

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win met Head of the European Union Military Staff (EUMS) Vice-Admiral Herve Blejean via video conferencing yesterday afternoon. The meeting discussed efforts of the State Administration Council for the rule of law and community peace in accordance with the Constitution, handling protests by the security forces in accordance with the stipulations, the implementation of five future work plans of the council and COVID-19 vaccination programmes. —MNA



Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council Vice-Senior General Soe Win holds talks with Head of the European Union Military Staff (EUMS) Vice-Admiral Herve Blejean via video conferencing yesterday.

MoI bans five media agencies from publishing

MINISTRY of Information released Order No (1/2021) on 8 March 2021.

The State Administration Council has granted the authority to revoke the licences of media outlets, which cover news that affect the rule of law and security of the people and support those who commit high treason, to the Ministry of Information in accordance with Article 419 and 420 of the Constitution, it read.

Therefore, the Ministry of Information banned five media agencies — Mizzima, DVB, the Khit Thit Media, Myanmar Now and the 7 Day starting 8 March 2021.

These media outlets have been banned from publishing or broadcasting with the use of a kind of media or technology. —MNA

Press Release

AMBASSADOR U Kyaw Zwar Minn from the Myanmar Embassy in London issued a statement on 8 March 2021.

The statement was issued on his own will without abiding by the State's orders, directives and policies.

He was appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Myanmar to the United Kingdom during the Administration of President U Thein Sein and he presented his Letters of Credence to the Queen on 5 March 2014. Although he has reached his retirement age limit, his term was extended as required during the previous Government's term.

As Ambassador U Kyaw Zwar Minn failed to perform the assigned duties, he has been called back to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 9 March 2021.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Nay Pyi Taw

Dated, 9 March 2021

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Announcement of Union Election Commission

9 March 2021

- Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the voters lists and the casting of votes of Amarapura Township in Mandalay Region.
- According to the inspection findings, the previous election commission released 181,664 eligible voters in Amarapura Township of Mandalay Region. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 163,517 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that there were 163,517 citizens, associate citizens, nationalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 904 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 16,196 persons repeated on the voter lists two times.
- Findings in the inspection were as follows:-

Findings on scrutinized voting list of Amarapura Township

Sr	Township and number of polling station	List of town-ship-subcom-misstion	List from immigration department	Those involved in voting list without citizenship scrutiny card	Those involved in voter list more than three times holding one CSC	Those involved in voter list more than two times holding one CSC
1	137 polling stations in Amarapura Township of Mandalay Region	181,664	163,517	15,331	904	16,196

- The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Amarapura Township in Mandalay Region, together with the respective township election sub-commission, head of police force, Immigration and Population and administrator according to the Hluttaw Election Law section 53.
- According to inspection on the ground, a total of 137 poll stations in Amarapura Township in Mandalay Region took out 194,308 ballot papers. It used 150,744 ballot receipts. Although the remaining ballots must be 43,564, there were only 39,333 ballots and 4,231 were missing as the ballots of Kyan Tan Ward No (1) poll station were not found.

On the ground inspections on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Amarapura Township

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/Village-tract ballots	189,250	150,144	39,106	34,875	4,231	-
2	Township advance ballots	5,058	600	4,458	4,458	-	-
3	Township remaining ballots	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	194,308	150,744	43,564	39,333	4,231	

- When the ballots for Amyotha Hluttaw election were inspected instead of the missing ballots for Pyithu Hluttaw election of Kyan Tan Ward No(1) poll station, they took out 194,308 ballots and used 152,474. The remaining ballots must be 41,834 but it found only 39,753 and 2,081 were missing.

Inspection on ballot paper in Amarapura Township

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/Village-tract ballots	189,250	151,874	37,376	35,295	2,081	-
2	Township advance ballots	5,058	600	4,458	4,458	-	-
3	Township remaining ballots	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	194,308	152,474	41,834	39,753	2,081	

- According to the respective Hluttaw Election Rules and Rule 66(h), "The poll heads must pack the under-mentioned and must print his seal on the packs. The poll heads must express the pack's content, names of wards or village-tracts and poll station number. He can also allow the poll station representative for Hluttaw MPs or other election agents to print their seals and make a large bundle. -

- Unused ballot papers, receipts and Form (16-1)
- Voting lists of the polling station
- Receipts for advance ballot papers
- Invalid votes Form (17).
- The Rules also instructed the poll head, deputy poll head, and members to carry out according to the stipulations mentioned above.
- However, it found the weaknesses in taking out and keeping the ballot papers, and the officials did not perform as per the instructions of respective Hluttaw Election Rules.

Union Election Commission

State Administration Council Information Team to hold press briefing 2/2021

THE Information Team of the State Administration Council will hold a press briefing 2/2021 at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information office in Nay Pyi Taw at 2 pm on 11 March.

Local and foreign media are invited to press conference—
MNA

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

In efforts to speed up the prevention, containment and treatment of the COVID-19 disease, the call centre ([phone number 2019](#)) is established by four communications operators and the Blue Ocean Company with the coordination of the Medical Research Department of the Health and Sports Ministry and Post and Telecommunications Department from 9 am to 5 pm daily at the Medical Research Department in Yangon.

Over 43 staff from the Medical Research Department and 17 volunteers from the Myanmar Medical Association totally 60 workers have been working at the centre since 8th April.—MNA

The measures it is taking are even softer than the ones in other countries

THE State Administration Council has been discharging the duties of the State for a month now. The nation was peaceful during the first week of its administration, but riots and protests have been occurring since the second week. Those demonstrations are caused by the persons who are disgruntled by the action taken against the vote-rigging amidst the COVID-19 prevention and containment restrictions. The Myanmar Police Force is controlling the situation by using minimum force and through the least harmful means. The MPF is doing its work in accordance with democracy practices and the measures it is taking are even softer than the ones in other countries.

(Excerpt from the speech to the meeting of the State Administration Council made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 2 March 2021)

Union Minister U Ko Ko meets Board of Trustees of Thanwayzaniya Lay Htana

UNION MINISTER for Religious Affairs and Culture U Ko Ko and other officials visited Thatta Thattaha Maha Bodhi Temple, Thanwayzaniya Lay Htana (Phwar, Pwint, Haw, San) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday

morning.

The Union Minister offered flowers, water and candlelight to the pagoda.

Then, he visited the "Haw" pagoda where the Buddha preached Dhamma Settkyar,

"San" where the Buddha passed away into Nirvana, and "Phwar" where the Buddha was born.

The Union Minister and party also met the pagoda board of trustees and the respective pagoda officials presented their

work plans for the pagoda.

The Union Minister stressed the need to conduct systematic arrangements for the pilgrimages to visit the pagoda in line with the COVID-19 rules, and discussed other plans for

water supply during summer and mindset to perform duties in innovative ways.

He also urged the pagoda board of trustee members to serve duties with goodwill. —MNA

MoSWRR discusses signing MoU with international organizations



Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine chairs the MoSWRR coordination meeting on cooperation with INGOs yesterday.

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement held the coordination meeting on MoUs to be signed between the Social Welfare Department and international non-governmental

organizations for cooperation, yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

The coordination meeting was attended by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Re-

settlement Dr Thet Thet Khine, Deputy Minister U Aung Tun Khine, the Permanent Secretary, Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General and officials.

At the meeting, the Union

Minister said her ministry is the ministry that directly engages the public and works for the benefits of the people and signing MoU with international organizations and cooperation are important.

She continued it can be said cooperation with international organizations provides technical assistance and financial assistance, by adding that it is necessary to make a list of how effective each organization is and what activities are being carried out in order to report to the Chairman of the State Administration Council, as these are really beneficial projects for the country and that she presented a reduction of steps required to obtain a permit to sign MoUs with international organizations.

The Deputy Minister said to the Deputy Directors-General to discuss the security of documents as every document is limited in carrying out office work and they need to be maintained for security.

Assistant Director U Ba Than discussed the status of preparation for five international organizations.

Deputy Director-General for Social Welfare Department Daw Khin May Nu explained the goals of People In Need, Trocaire, Child Fund Myanmar, Christian Aid and Mercy Corps (Myanmar), project name, project period, project funding, beneficiaries of project implementation, project activities, project area and benefits of signing MoU.—MNA

Request to Public

1. Democracy practices have granted the public for freedom of speech, practices and living. Such freedoms should not harm others. Diverse views of others should be understood, but should not be disturbed or harassed. However, with the reason of human rights, some persons are now under pressured, harassed and threatened in breaching the laws. Undisciplined acts could lead to tarnish the image of democracy.
2. For preventing destructive actions against stability of the state, safety of the public and rule of law, it is also required to proper actions in line with the law.
3. All the people who favour justice, freedom, equality and safety are requested to oppose breaching the laws and prevent such actions for the benefit of country and people.

Findings in inspection of current UEC on election results of former UEC

THE Union Election Commission led by U Thein Soe has conducted ground inspection on election results released by former UEC led by U Hla Thein and released the findings of 14 townships between 25 February and 9 March.

It is found that the former UEC took out a total of 2,076,065 ballot papers for 14 townships and used 1,436,516 ballots. But, only 596,007 ballots were found during the inspection instead of 639,564 ballots. Therefore, 65,530 ballots were missing with extra-used of 21,988 and 87,518 were possible to be fraud.

According to the election result of former UEC, there were 1448,363 invalid votes, missing votes, valid votes and the current UEC found it used 1436,516 ballot papers and so 11,847 were seemed to be fraud.

The current findings will be scrutinized again in detail and the further results of ground inspection will be also released.—MNA

Sr	Constituency	voters	Announcement of former UEC				Announcement of current UEC					difference	
			Invalid ballots	Missing ballots	Valid ballots	Total	Issued ballots	Used ballots	Possible Remaining ballots	Remaining ballots	difference		
										Missing	Extra-used		
1	Zabuthiri	95,047	1,113	8	69,253	70,374	98,550	67,565	30,985	25,005	5,980	- +2,809	
2	Dekkhinathiri	31,657	852	25	23,660	24,537	35,153	24,465	10,688	10,485	203	- +72	
3	Pyinmana	138,356	2,379	26	103,224	105,629	150,941	105,762	45,179	43,191	1988	- -133	
4	Lewe	221,388	6,190	25	153,979	160,194	245,611	164,017	81,594	81,628	274	308 -3,823	
5	Zeyathiri	82,214	1,899	6	70,158	72,063	90,549	72,092	18,457	18,313	438	294 -29	
6	Tatkon	180,838	4,285	63	128,765	133,113	204,398	129,268	75,130	68,374	6,804	48 +3,845	
7	Pobbathiri	98,077	1,420	43	77,361	78,824	108,959	78,576	30,383	30,316	978	911 +248	
8	Ottarathiri	58,649	1,312	8	45,000	46,320	60,590	46,158	14,432	14,197	235	- +162	
9	Pyawbwe	216,691	4,375	47	174,459	178,881	250,538	177,523	73,015	70,117	7,023	4,125 +1,358	
10	Kyauktada	23,984	187	78	14,971	15,236	26,304	15,055	11,249	11,039	306	96 +181	
11	Tamway	127,107	981	31	81,403	82,415	140,314	78,758	61,556	55,804	11,745	5,993 +3,657	
12	Meiktila	259,030	4,951	95	196,613	201,659	286,524	204,358	82,166	70,511	12,612	957 -2,699	
13	Mahaungmye	172,741	929	20	129,303	130,252	175,796	127,360	48,436	47,447	8,705	7,716 +2,892	
14	Patheingyi	190,602	2,924	83	145,859	148,866	201,838	145,559	56,294	49,580	8,239	1,540 +3,307	
	Total	1,896,381	33,797	558	1,414,008	1,448,363	2,076,065	1,436,516	639,564	596,007	65,530	21,988	

Former Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee member U Min Thu charged

U MIN THU, former member of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee was arrested at Shwegondaing Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone (2) for leading the activities in urging the government workers to join CDM on 26 February 2021 and the officials conducted the investigation.

He testified that he communicated with Min Ko Naing and Kyaw Min Yu (aka) Jimmy 88 Generation Peace and Open Society to commit incitement to the government staff in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area to fail in their duties.

On 14 February 2021, U

Aung Kyi Nyunt, a member of NLD's Executive Committee released a statement titled "To support in forming CDM Supporting Team by NLD members in the respective township for all DCM participants," and U Min Thu held a meeting with 10 district executive committee members on 15 February and formed CDM Supporting Team.

The CDM Supporting Team comprised of U Maung Maung Swe (former Amyotha Hluttaw MP for constituency 9 of Mandalay Region), U Kyaw Htwe (candidate of Pyithu Hluttaw MP for Zabuthiri Township), U Win Naing Oo (Secretary of NLD for

Pyinmana Township), U Kyaw Myint Oo (former Amyotha Hluttaw MP of constituency 10 of Mandalay Region), U Than Soe Aung (former Pyithu Hluttaw MP of Pyinmana Township) and U Zaw Min Oo (junior engineer of Agriculture Department). Then, the team cooperated with U Nay Lin (Relax Vinyl), U Mya Tint (patron of district NLD party), U Zaw Min Kyaw (owner of Khit Pya Tike publishing house of Yangon), U Hla Myo (Myanmar Teachers' Union) and U Thant Zin Tun (former Pyithu Hluttaw MP of Dekkhinathiri and they received cash contribution from local and foreign donors to sup-

port CDM participants.

Moreover, U Min Thu also communicated with sit-in protest leaders U Win Naing Oo (Secretary of Pyinmana NLD), U Myo Ko Zin Myint (a member of NLD youth committee), U Kyaw Min Hlaing (former Pyithu Hluttaw MP of Ottarathiri), U Hlaing Min Oo (joint secretary of Zabuthiri NLD) and Aung Aung (chairman of Pobbathiri NLD) and committed activities to unrest riots.

Therefore, arrangements are being made to arrest the other suspects according to the testimony of U Min Thu. Then, U Kyaw Min Hlaing was arrested

on 1 March 2021 while U That Zin Tun was on 2 March.

A case was opened against U Min Thu under the Penal Code Section 505(a) at the Pattar police station of Pobbathiri township on 7 March while U Kyaw Min Hlaing at Phaya Gone Myoma police station of Ottarathiri township and U Thant Zin Tun at Thar Wut Hti police station of Lewe township under Penal Code 505(a) respectively.

The people can report to the nearest police stations if other 15 suspects are found. Action will be taken against those who hide the suspects at home.—MNA

Rioters break into eyewear store in Mandalay

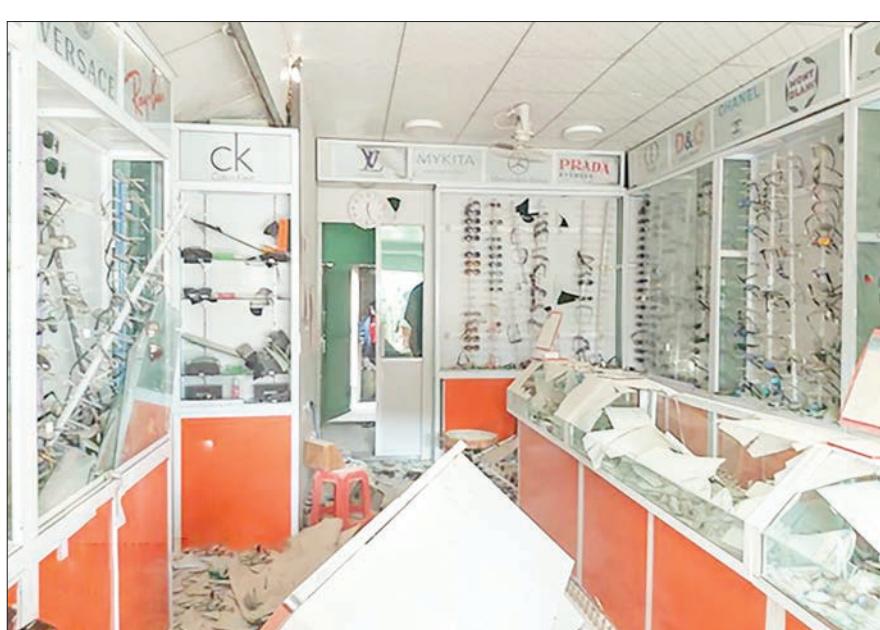
A group of rioters broke into Toetawtai Family Eyewear Store and took expensive glasses yesterday afternoon in Mahaungmye township in Mandalay Region.

The group led by U Tint Swe, Hla Ko and Maung Myint Soe ran away when security forces came to the store located between 88th road and 89th road, on 38th street.

The owner of the shop, Kyaw Kyaw Wai, and his wife, Daw Myint Myint Thin, temporarily closed their shop and moved to a relative's house for fear of being threatened by rioters in the area.

The government is taking legal action against those involved in such anarchic acts against those living and working in the area.—MNA

Toetawtai Family Eyewear Store was left in diarray after break-in by rioters in Mandalay.



COVID-19 vaccination continues in regions/states

THE Ministry of Health and Sports is implementing the COVID-19 immunization programme across the country, setting priorities based on the availability of vaccines and targeting vaccinated groups.

Of the 3.5 million vaccines that have already arrived in Myanmar, 1.644 million have been distributed to Nay Pyi Taw Council, states and regions.

The Ministry of Health and Sports has been maintaining the vaccines by storing them in

coldstorage, forming vaccination groups and arranging vaccination places, and organizing medical teams to monitor possible complications after vaccination and to provide medical treatment in case of emergency.

Therefore, the COVID-19 vaccination has been given in Nay Pyi Taw, Kachin State, Sagaing Region, Bago Region, Mandalay Region, Mon State and Yangon Region and will continue to be given to other regions and states.—MNA



Security forces attacked by car in Mohnyin

MEMBERS of the security forces who chased the dispersing crowd were attacked by a car driving at high speed while they were stationing at Bawdi junction, Seinyadanar Taung ward in Mohnyin Township, Kachin State yesterday.

Although security forces warned to disperse when about 300 people were protesting in

Ashay Su ward in Mohnyin Township, the protesters insisted to stay and tried to harm the security forces with sticks, rocks and slingshots. Finally, the security forces had to disperse the crowd with the shot of .12 revolver used for riot control.

White colour NPW 9K/9288 Honda Fit being driven by Min

Khant Wai, 24, son of U Soe Naing, who lives in Ashay Su ward, Mohnyin Township, tried to attack the security forces who were chasing the dispersing crowd. The driver was arrested and according to further investigation, there were two men in the vehicles who were injured and run away by motorbike. —MNA



Young people of rescue task force inspected in Kyaitko

NECESSARY inspection was conducted upon a total of 11 persons (6 males and 5 females) who were believed to be charity workers of Rescue Task Force (RTF) staying in Golden Bliss hotel in Kyaitko Township, Mon State.

They were led by Ma Sint Moon, daughter of U Zaw Tun Myint, who lives in Yankin Township in Yangon Region. According to the investigation, Rescue Task Force (RTF) was formed with the aim of transferring the injured persons during the demonstrations to medical centres on 3 February. The chairperson of the RTF was Ma Sint Mon and Vice-Chair was Min Kyat Kyaw and there were six members at the time of forming and the number increased to 36 after the announcement

of calling for members on 1 March. RTF received 86.5 million kyats of donation through the announced bank accounts.

Of the received donation, K 28 million was used to buy uniforms and donate to other charities and K 12 million was used to buy two vehicles. As the donors and members did not agree on the money spending of RTF, Ma Sint Mon resigned from her duty as the chairperson of RTF on 2 March and refund K 30 million to the donors. She still has K 16.5 million in her hand and transferred K 6.5 million to Min Khant Kyaw who was Chairperson of RTF and ran away with other 11 people to hide from the police.

As the donors have demanded to clear accounts of donations, she planned to search



Illegally-founded Rescue Task Force (RTF) are under inspection.

Min Khant Kyaw and found out that they had entered in the territory of KNU. She returned back and while she was staying in Kyaitko, she was investigated by the police.

According to the Myanmar Police Force, elders of the community and parents need to control as necessary since forming illegal associations during the riots across the country, receiving donations, disagreeing with each other on the spending of the donated money, and reaching to another territory may result in unexpected consequences.—MNA

One of three murderers of Lanmadaw case arrested



San Htike Aung, one of three murderers was arrested along with a car.

A male body with tape on its mouth, hands and feet was found on the Ywathitchaung roadside in Mawtin Yaryi market ward, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon

Region and a case has been filed under Section 302 of the Criminal Procedure Code (Pa) 32/2021 in Lanmadaw Township Police Station.

While further investigation into the case, it was found that the deceased person was U Thein Han, 65, son of U San Tint, who lived in 14 ward, Shwepaukkan myothit, North Okkalapa Township, and was the supervisor (day shift) in Shwedagon Pagoda Square Cleaning Department.

It was investigated that he returned back home after his shift around 3 pm in the evening of 6 March. According to CCTV footage, he was seen getting in the grey colour of Honda Civic car (YGN 5G/6965) after crossing the road from the east stairway of Shwedagon Pagoda around 3:12 pm.

While conducting investigation to the suspected vehicle, combined team consisted of security forces arrested the

vehicle with San Htike Aung (a) Htike Gyi (a) Than Bi, in Number 12 territory of Bogyoke village, Thanlyin Township.

According to further investigation, he confessed that he, together with Ye Ko, who lives in Pazundaung Township and Thagyo (real name unknown) found a 60-year-old man at Bahan Thone Lan bus stop while they were wandering around the city for robbery in Dagon Township.

They offered a ride to him to Shwepaukkan where he lives for 1000 kyats and when the car reached near Nawaday cinema, Ye Ko put the knife to the victim who was later taped at his hands, mouth and feet and murdered him with iron stick to the head, neck and feet.

After they had taken a gold ring with white/red stones, one gold invoice, one Oppo phone, 1 steel colour watch, and 30,000 kyats, they threw the dead body on the Ywathitchaung roadside in Mawtin Yaryi Market ward.

According to further investigation, these three criminals also committed similar robberies to a woman and a man one week ago and in February respectively and released the victims after taking money and items from them.

It is also reported that San Htike Aung (a) Htike Gyi (a) Than Bi has criminal records and had been in prison. A case has been opened against him and security forces are investigating to arrest Ye Ko and Thagyo, according to Myanmar Police Force.—MNA

Request to health workers

1. It is appreciated for the strenuous efforts of the medical doctors, nurses, medical experts and other health workers at the respective departments under the Ministry of Health and Sports at the front-line in the fight against prevention, containment and treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).
2. As the vaccination programme of COVID-19 is being conducted for the public and the real-time healthcare services are required for the people, all the staff members at the respective departments under the Ministry of Health and Sports are strongly urged to return to their duties with taking the well-being of patients into consideration.

Ministry of Health and Sports
8 February 2021

Rioters hung pictures of monk with female longyis arrested in Sanchaung

THE Myanmar Police Force has arrested Aung Kyaw Oo, leader of the riot and 7 other rioters who are responsible for the riots that happened on 8 March in Sanchaung.

In the morning of 8 March, about 200 rioters hanged the pictures of a monk on female longyis at the junction of Kyuntaw street and Chantha road and, Aung Kyaw Oo, 52, son of U Hla Htwe, Burmese and Buddhist, who lived in Number 21, Chantha road, Kyuntaw ward, Sanchaung Township was arrested at his place.

A total of 7 rioters were investigated and will be taken action according to the law for their act of insult to the religion and it is reported that legal action will be taken effectively and decisively if there were similar defamatory acts, according to Myanmar Police Force.—MNA

Maymyo flowers earn farmers good income in Mese

THE local growers from Hose village, Mese Township, Kayah State are growing Maymyo flowers on a manageable scale and they are earning a good income in the early harvest season.

"Our garden grows Maymyo flowers on a manageable scale. There are only a few flower growers in our village. The Maymyo flower is sold for K150 or K200 per tree in the early harvest season. And, the flower is also sold for K1,500 per handful. The regional Maymyo flowers are colourful, beautiful and sustainable. This is the reason why people love to buy Maymyo flowers. We pick up the flowers once a week. Every time, we earn K50,000 from our

Maymyo flower garden," said Daw Khin Win, a Maymyo flower grower from Hose village.

I have ordered the Maymyo flower species from Lawpita in Loikaw township and started to grow in January. Maymyo flowers are very fond of water and are given water every day. After seeding the plant for one and a half month, the nursery plant is transplanted to boundary farmland. Then, we have to spray pesticides and earthworks every 15 days. The Maymyo flower started to blossom in March and they can be picked up every four or five weeks.

There are only three gardens in Hose village in which the Ma-



There are only three gardens in Hose village in which the Maymyo flowers are grown.

ymyo flowers are grown. In the blossoming season, the garden

owners are selling them by motorbike in Mese town market and

the villages near Hose. —Wutye (IPRD)/GNLM

Chick-pea cultivation succeeds in U Yin Zin village, Minbu (Sagu)

THE local farmers from U Yin Zin village, Minbu (Sagu) township are growing chick-pea and they are successful in cultivation, according to the chick-pea growers.

There are a total of 60,534.66 acres of farmland in 150 villages from 68 village-tracts in Minbu (Sagu) township. The local vil-

lagers are being engaged mainly in the agriculture business. Farmers from some villages are using the farmlands as the garden plots and growing some long-term crops such as mango, Sterculia Versicolor Wall (locally called Say Kalama) and Thanaka and they are also raising cow, pig, sheep, goat and chicken.

"The farmers from U Yin Zin village are carrying out farming business relying upon the Mong dam and underground water. We are successfully growing chick-pea, black bean, green gram even it is in the tropical region. It doesn't matter even if the cultivation is late. The crops yield usually in March," said U Tun

Myint, a chick-pea grower from U Yin Zin village.

The villagers from U Yin Zin village are growing onion, garlic, tomato, peanut, maize, coriander, bottle gourd, eggplant and chick-pea. The chick-peas are currently priced at K30,000 per basket and there is a good yield. — Zeyar Htet (Minbu)/GNLM

Kyaukse growers enjoy handsome prices of sesame

GROWERS are elated as they are getting handsome prices of the sesame in the market. But the sesame production has dropped, not meeting our expectation and the low yield can be attributed to the bad weather condition this year.

The white sesame and black sesame are grown in Kyaukse township. The price of the black sesame prevails at K55,000 per basket while the white sesame is priced at K60,000 per basket, according to sesame growers. The sesame could be grown in two seasons such as the early rainy season and late rainy season.

Hsin Yadanar-4 and Hsin Yadanar-12 white sesame species and Magway black sesame 1/13 species are grown as of late monsoon crop mostly in Kyaukse district.

The District Agricultural Department grows a total of 58,934 acres of sesame including 30,694 acres of sesame in Kyaukse township, 10,137 acres in Singin township, 17,778 acres in Myittha township and 325 acres in Tada-U township. —Thet Maung (Kyaukse)/GNLM

Construction of school shelter in Kani completed 35%



The school shelter building started its construction, with a spending of over K140 million from the National Natural Disaster Management Committee's fund of the 2020-2021 financial year.

THE construction of a school shelter started on 21 January in Zee Phyu Gone village, Kani township, Yinnmabin district, Sagaing region has been completed 35 per cent.

"Currently, the school shelter has been completed by 35 per cent. It will be entirely constructed within this financial year," said Daw Aye Aye Aung,

the head of the Department of Disaster Management in Kani Township.

The school shelter building started its construction, with a spending of over K140 million from the National Natural Disaster Management Committee's fund of the 2020-2021 financial year. It is a two-storeyed RC building and it is 140 feet in

length, 30 feet in width and 20 feet in height. Separate toilets are built for girls and boys with authorities taking into consideration the need for privacy and cleanliness. Myint Gabar Soe company is responsible for the construction project.

"In a normal situation, the building will become the classroom for the students. The

building also includes a common room for the teachers. There will be a perfect classroom for the region unless there is no disaster. In the event of a natural disaster, the Kyaw village group and the villagers from nearby groups can come to take shelter in that building," she added.

Upon completion of the school shelter, the school shelter can be used as storm shelters when a natural disaster strikes. The whole family members can stay in the building if they suffer from a natural disaster. The building could also be used for other reasons.

In 2020, the Sagaing region suffered from 363 times of natural disaster such as fire, flood, hurricane, tornado, landslide, earthquakes, lightning and other geological processes. More than 7,100 households were affected in some areas of the Sagaing region by natural disaster while about 33 people were killed and 60 injured in the disaster events, according to the data recorded from the Department of Disaster Management in the Sagaing Region. — Lu Lay/GNLM

Better management key to managing summer water shortage in rural areas

Climate change will surely make the problem of water shortage worse year by year. A number of countries are facing a hotter, drier future. Our people especially in rural areas are facing such challenge every summer.

As part of efforts for fighting climate change-induced disasters, some reports on drinking water supply projects come as preparedness for tackling the water scarcity issues in parts of our country.

One is that a drinking water supply project, which is currently supplying one million gallons of drinking water to Dala Township, is being expanded and will supply extra 3.3 gallons of water to the township upon completion.

Some villages in other areas are now experiencing a scarcity of water for household use and drinking as the lakes they are relying on are dried up.

A water crisis is not merely a problem concerning people in rural areas, but may very well affect anyone in their lifetime.

Now is the time to make better urban planning and management for tackling water scarcity and shortage issues nationwide with better research about water supply technology, depending on its suitability for each area.

According to a survey, the Ayeyawady region tops the list of the survey which could face the lack of drinking water in summer, followed by Sagaing and Mandalay regions.

Our preparations should be based on better research about water supply technology, depending on its suitability for each area.

When it comes to curbing water shortage in rural areas, urban planners and engineers need to learn from changing rainfall patterns and take future demand into account to build more resilient infrastructure.

The main reasons why rural residents experience water shortage every year should be considered when making short-term, middle-term, and long-term plans to resolve the issue. To quench the thirst of people in the summer, all hands — from the government, partner organizations, local and foreign donors, regional authorities, and people — need to be on deck.

Besides, we need to carry out a survey on water supply in rural areas, including current consumption and operation of the water supply network.

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Women's Day Rallies: Thousands defy coronavirus restrictions

Tens of thousands on Monday defied coronavirus restrictions, gathering worldwide on International Women's Day to denounce gender violence and inequalities.

Women took to the streets in peaceful democracies and in countries gripped by conflict, though in far smaller numbers than last year, when the full force of the COVID-19 pandemic had yet to hit the world.

Thousands marched in Mexico City, bringing with them photos with the names of alleged rapists, murderers and harassers of women.

"Together we are the fire, burn everything," said one banner in the crowd, some of whom angrily kicked at a wooden fence around the Monument to the Revolution.

"My daughter was raped. I am grateful that she is alive," 45-year-old Leticia Resendiz told reporters.

Near her, a small girl carried a sign reading: "They haven't killed me, but I live in fear."

Thousands of women also marched in Buenos Aires, Argentina, which has seen a wave of femicide that has claimed on average one life per day so far this year.

"We want to be free, alive

and without fear," said posters carried by the demonstrators.

More than 100 activists wearing purple to symbolize women's struggle gathered outside the prosecutor's office in Honduras to demand justice for nurse Keyla Martinez, 26, who died in police custody last month.

"Here, the life of the woman is worth nothing," said Maria Julia Avila, 49.

Honduras' human rights watchdog says 4,769 women were murdered in the country between 2010 and 2020.

'We Won't Be Silent'

In France, where one woman is killed every three days by their partner or ex-partner, according to 2019 government figures, tens of thousands marched in major cities to call for stronger police action against femicide.

Nearly 2,000 people gathered in Kiev to demand that Ukraine ratify the Istanbul Convention against domestic abuse.

"I am allergic to patriarchy," read some of the placards held aloft.

Made Worse By COVID

In Spain, Madrid banned gathering over the virus, but a few dozen women gathered nevertheless, standing at a safe distance from each other to hold

systemic rape and forced sterilization in the camps - charges China denies.

Thousands marched elsewhere in Istanbul and Ankara, many of them angered by a recent viral video purporting to show an attack on a woman by her ex-husband in front of their five-year-old child in the country's north.

"We're not scared, we won't be silent and we won't bow down," some posters read.

Hundreds gathered in the Algerian capital to protest against a family code that governs family and property relations, and which many view as demeaning to women.

Nearly 2,000 people gathered in Kiev to demand that Ukraine ratify the Istanbul Convention against domestic abuse.

"I am allergic to patriarchy," read some of the placards held aloft.

Made Worse By COVID

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Women march during a demonstration within the commemoration of the International Women's Day in Quito on 8 March, 2021. PHOTO: AFP

up signs with feminist slogans.

Several thousand demonstrators massed in Barcelona for a socially distanced march, wearing purple masks and carrying posters with slogans such as: "No means no" and "The real pandemic is machismo." "The pandemic has made the differences clearer. Who's been left to look after everyone at home? Who's had problems going back

to work?" asked Alya Samson, 29.

Three of the world's most influential female leaders – United States (US) Vice-President Kamala Harris, New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and European Union (EU) chief Ursula von der Leyen – told the European Parliament the economic and political fallout from the pandemic has sharpened the challenges facing women world-

wide. "COVID-19 has threatened the health, the economic security and the physical security of women everywhere," Harris said in a video address recorded in Washington.

The US also announced it would join an informal United Nations (UN) group on curbing violence against women and girls, created last year and presided over by the EU. —AFP■

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Head of Service Organization appointed

The State Administration Council has appointed U Myo Min, Deputy Director-General from Management and Human Resources Department under the Central Bank of Myanmar as Director-General of the Governor Office on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Objectives of 76th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

FOR the Tatmadaw to join hands with the entire nation to safeguard democracy, which is the aspiration of all the nationalities of the country, from deviating from its path, in accord with the basic principles of the Constitution, while observing Our Three Main National Causes, which is the national policy;

To protect the people from all dangers including natural disasters at any time and in any situation and to provide all-round assistance for ensuring social security of the people;

To restore eternal peace based on NCA, without deviating from Our Three Main National Causes, as the cessation of armed conflicts is the principal requirement in realizing democracy;

To build a strong and compact Standard Army, which has the combat prowess and combat power; to effectively safeguard the State peace and stability and sovereignty.



MYANMAR Daily Weather Report

(ISSUED at 7:00 pm Tuesday 9 March, 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 10 March, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Northern Shan states. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in (Southern and Eastern) Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight increase of day temperatures in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady regions and Kayah, Kayin, Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 March, 2021: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 March, 2021: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 March, 2021: Generally fair weather.



Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development chief economist Laurence Boone. PHOTO: AFP

largely carried by the United States, thanks to President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion stimulus programme, Laurence Boone, chief economist of the OECD, told AFP.

The OECD now sees the US economy climbing by 6.5 per cent this year, an increase of 3.3 percentage points from its previous forecast.

Boone said the US recovery accounts for one percentage point of the global growth revision.

Significant risks'

The OECD said global output could rise above the pre-pandemic level in mid-2021. It noted, however, increasing signs of divergence between countries as some nations are faster to roll out vaccines while others employ containment measures.

"Despite the improved global outlook, output and incomes in

the world, to save lives as well as to speed economic recovery.

"There are huge and significant risks to our economic projections, most notably the pace of vaccination," Boone told AFP. "What we know is the faster countries vaccinate, the quicker they can reopen their economy," she said, adding that Europe should speed up its vaccination efforts.

Britain, which also has rolled out vaccines quickly, got a 0.9 percentage point increase to 5.1 per cent – higher than the UK's own forecast, which was lowered last week. The eurozone, where vaccination campaigns have been slower, received only a 0.3 percentage point bump to 3.9 per cent, as the recoveries in both Italy and France were revised lower.

India and Turkey have surpassed pre-pandemic levels of economic output. The OECD said the "top policy priority" is to deploy vaccines as quickly as possible throughout the world. —AFP■

advanced nations to step up their support to efforts to aid poorer countries obtain vaccines and get them into arms.

"The resources required to provide vaccines to lower-income countries are small compared with the gains from a stronger and faster global economic recovery," she said, adding that Europe should speed up its vaccination efforts.

The forecast for China was also revised lower, by 0.2 percentage points, to 7.8 per cent.

The OECD said fiscal and monetary policy should remain supportive of recoveries.

Concerning inflation, the threat of which has caused markets to swoon in recent weeks, the OECD said underlying price pressures generally remain mild and are being held in check by ample spare capacity around the world. —AFP■

I also want other teachers to return to work from CDM. We all are responsible for the development of our region and people.

By Nay Chi Oo

CDM movement is actually to manipulate the life of innocent civil servants for politics. It is a movement to complicate social life and politics. It is to destroy the lives of innocent young employees. It is to push the life of active and young public servants to darkness.

However, we have heard the voice of some civil servants who did not join the CDM movement with the conscious decision as below.

A sergeant

“I am Sergeant Win Naing Aung (not his real name). I work under the Number (1) Security Police. We, as the Myanmar Police Force, are working to protect the life and property of the people. We also maintain the current situation according to the rules and regulations. Our true aspiration is to let the public live in peace. That is why we are taking our responsibilities seriously without joining CDM so that people are safe.

We will also earn the trust of the people upon the Myanmar Police Force. I am personally trying not to involve in CDM and I would like to encourage other members of the Police Force not to join CDM. I find that CDM is creating chaos for the life of employees and the State. Therefore, I want all employees to value our work and continue to work peacefully without joining CDM.

A judicial staff

I am a judicial staff. I am Daw Thuzar Aung (not her real name) and I work as the Deputy Judge of the Township. I am currently on duty in Shan State. I was in Yangon before and I was transferred here quite recently. I have been serving the country for over 20 years. I think the employee should stay as an employee and I do not like to mix the duty of work with politics. Our work is our profession and it was not easy to get this job. I had to get the relevant law degree and also had to study to become proficient in various legal affairs. I had to try very hard to get to this level. As it was not easy for me to get this job, it would be a loss for me if I became jobless due to CDM. Therefore, I do not agree with joining CDM. I would like to suggest to other judicial staff like me to return to work in time even if they joined CDM. It is very difficult to get a job these days even for an ordinary employee. It is better to work and live peacefully. I have two daughters and I work for my elders too. I do not have any other work than this. It will be difficult for me if something happens when I join CDM. That is why I believe it is the right choice to work for our work.

A teacher

My name is Daw Tin Tin Ei (not her real name). I am a middle-class teacher in Rakhine State. I have

I think the staff should stay as staff. I have a son and a daughter and I have responsibilities to take care of them. I make the living only by being a teacher and I am so scared CDM would harm my work. We have to be loyal to our work. It is not only our family who gets hurt when we join CDM, but our superiors are also embarrassed.

been a teacher for 15 years and currently, I am preparing for the reopening of schools. I heard that some teachers are participating in the CDM movement. As for me, I have decided not to join CDM since its start. As I become older, I do not want to lose my service term. If something happens, no one can guarantee. I think the staff should stay as staff. I have a son and a daughter and I have responsibilities to take care of them. I make the living only by being a teacher and I am so scared CDM would harm my work. We have to be loyal to our work. It is not only our family who gets

hurt when we join CDM, but our superiors are also embarrassed. The worst thing is that it is difficult to substitute proficient teachers like us in our region because of a language barrier. We have to know not only Burmese but also the Rakhine language, the ethnic dialects as well as other dialects so that we can teach effectively. Therefore, I decided not to involve in the CDM activity for my region, my people, the life of children and my life. Besides, I also want other teachers to return to work from CDM. We all are responsible for the development of our region and people.

Thank you.

It is right. Buddha, himself, said it is a blessing to have an uncomplicated job. Everyone should work in a straightforward manner. It is the best. In other words, it is a blessing. As the CDM movement confused the responsibilities of employees and the situation of the State, it cannot be said an uncomplicated work. Hence, it is best for employees to avoid the CDM and it is the best choice to return to work in order to live peacefully.

Translated.

“Hundi” businesses exploit benefits for border trade as private banks shutter

THE closure of private banks forced the traders to turn to the operators running ‘hundi’, an informal money transfer system, to make transactions in the border trade, said U Min Khaing, chair of Myanmar Corn Industrial Association.

At present, the Myawady border does not have trade barriers except transaction problem triggered by the shutdown of the private banks, he

continued.

“Trade is regularly flowing in and out of the country. What a problem is that we cannot claim income through a legitimate financial market during the meantime. Now, the trade is carried out through hundi operators. The closure of formal financial markets except the state-owned banks render the cash flow difficulties,” U Min Khaing said.

Hundi business is weak to protect transactions and less secure. Besides, they charge too much for services, U Min Khaing stressed.

“The remittance cannot be done through the private banks and so, the traders use hundi service. It is okay for big cities like Yangon and Mandalay. They are not enough for security whatever. Bank services are much better than hundi. For an

instance, we can withdraw K500 million immediately at the private bank. However, withdrawal through hundi operators takes time for such a big amount of money,” he elaborated.

Myanmar is currently shipping about 5,000-6,000 tonnes of corns to Thailand through the Myawady border every day.

Myanmar is allowed for corn export between 1 February and 31 August with Form-D,

under zero tariff.

Myanmar corn exports were exempted from tax between February and August. Thailand imposed a 73 per cent of tax on corn import to protect the rights of their growers if the corns are imported during the corn season of Thailand, under the notification of the World Trade Organization regarding corn import of Thailand.—NN/GNLM

Towards a peaceful and brighter future in unity

By Lay Lay Nwe

WHEN the Buddha lived at the Zetawun monastery, the two warriors of King Kaw Thala did not get along pretty well. No one can solve a conflict between them except King Kaw Thala.

One day, while the Buddha was during His Enlightenment in the early morning, He found to give examples to these two warriors and so He went out for alms and stopped in front of one of the warriors.

Benefits of metta (loving-kindness)

The warrior invited the Buddha to his house. Then, the Buddha delivered sermons about the benefits of metta. As the result, the warrior became sotāpanna-ariya. The Buddha also went out and stopped in front of the house of another warrior.

The Buddha then delivered sermons as before and the warrior also became sotāpanna-ariya at the end. The two warriors apologized to each other and the Buddha then recounted his past life in solving a disagreement.

The story was about a dragon and garuda in the term of Bayarnathi King Bramadat. At that time, the Buddha-to-be was a hermit and delivered a sermon about the benefits of

Loving-Friendliness to the dragon and garuda. Finally, they became friends and lived in unity.

The Buddha taught how to control conflict by practising the metta. According to 550 Jataka stories, only the metta can bring peace among the community.

Truth

The outbreak of fighting among the organizations, groups or peoples and wars between the countries can only cause damages and difficulties and there would indeed be no benefits in loki (worldly affairs) and lokuttara (the way to escape from worldly desires and attachments).

There would be disagreements among the individuals and community due to the different opinions. That can cause criticisms, threats, fighting and riots through disagreement.

Although the State of Emergency was declared under Section 417 of the Constitution, the people including the youths take to the streets to protest. Some government staff join the CDM movement. It can also be seen the normal protests are escalated into riots in various ways in some places of the country.

Civil services personnel

The anti-government groups also commit various



The unscrupulous persons locked the door of an office that did not join CDM, blocked the public roads with car tyres, trees, concrete blocks and set fire to the car tyres. They also destroyed the CCTVs, vehicles and also attacked the security forces. Although they shout out democracy, they brazenly commit destructive elements that run against democracy culture.

Social Bullying like incitement or social punishment against the government staff to fail in their duties via social media and their surroundings.

The unscrupulous persons locked the door of an office that did not join CDM, blocked the public roads with car tyres, trees, concrete blocks and set fire to the car tyres. They also destroyed the CCTVs, vehicles and also attacked the security forces. Although they shout out democracy, they brazenly commit destructive elements that run against democracy culture.

They create public dissension just holding the case of Tatmadaw's takeover.

They instigate to lose unity among the ethnic nationals living in Myanmar. They mislead the people something they know to be false. They intentionally attempt to persuade the protest crowd to criticize and fight each other. Such doings are the ones that are not conformity to democracy and law.

Therefore, Myanmar Police Force released a statement to take action against those who lead the protests under the law.

Difference

According to democratic nature, everyone has their rights to opinions, decision, feeling and stance. These differences are the different essences of democracy and so the people should know its value.

Therefore, people should take lessons from the past like getting negative things from the instigation and should do good things for others with great goodwill or love to reach a perfect future.

Translated.

Fishery exports slide to \$354.6 mln in 5 months this FY

EXPORT earnings from the fisheries sector during the period between 1 October and 19 February in the financial year 2020-2021 touched a low of US\$354.6 million, a decrease of \$32.6 million from the year-ago period, according to statistics released by the Commerce Ministry.

The figures stood at just \$387.25 million during a year-ago period.

Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) expected to earn more than \$800 million from fishery exports in the FY2019-2020 and it reached a target.

Myanmar exports fisheries products, such as fish, prawns, and crabs, to markets in 40 countries, including China, Saudi Arabia, the US, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and countries in the European Union.

Myanmar's fishery exports have slightly declined over the

past months, owing to the COVID-19 impacts and current political conditions.

Additionally, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) issued guidelines to ensure food safety during the COVID-19 pandemic in April 2020.

The permitted companies are advised to carry out food safety plans, follow the guidelines of WHO and FAO, formulate the safety management system and suspend the exports if any suspicious foodborne virus or virus infection risk are found in the products. They can resume the exports once the products meet food safety criteria set by the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

China is the second-largest buyer of Myanmar's fishery

products, accounting for US\$254 million out of the overall fishery export value of \$850 million in the financial year 2019-2020.

The federation expects to reach a fishery export target of US\$1 billion in the current FY 2020-2021.

The MFF is making concerted efforts to increase fishery export earnings by developing fish farming lakes that meet international standards and adopting advanced fishing techniques.

To ensure food safety, the foreign market requires suppliers to obtain Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and Good Aquaculture Practices (GAQP) certificates.

To meet international market standards, fishery products must be sourced only from hatcheries that are compliant with GAQP. The MFF is working with fish farmers, processors,

and the Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation to develop the GAQP system.

Processors can screen fishery products for food safety at ISO-accredited laboratories under the Fisheries Department.

There are 480,000 acres of fish and prawn breeding farms across the country and more than 120 cold-storage facilities in Myanmar.

Myanmar exported 340,000 tonnes of fishery products worth \$530 million in the 2013-2014FY, 330,000 tonnes worth \$480 million in the 2014-2015FY, 360,000 tonnes worth \$500 million in the 2015-2016FY, 430,000 tonnes worth \$600 million in the 2016-2017FY, 560,000 tonnes worth \$700 million in the 2017-2018FY, 580,000 tonnes worth over \$730 million in the 2018-2019FY and \$847.5 million, according to the Com-

merce Ministry.

An MFF official said the federation had asked the government to tackle problems faced in the export of farm-raised fish and prawns through G2G pacts and ensured smooth freight movement between countries to bolster exports.

Myanmar's economy is more dependent on the agricultural sector to a large extent. Also, the fisheries sector contributes a lot to the national gross domestic product (GDP). Its fishery production including shrimps and saltwater and freshwater fish are far better than the regional countries. If the country can boost processing technology, it will contribute to the country's economy and earn more income for those stakeholders in the supply chain, Yangon Region Fisheries Department stated. — KK/GNLM

Tokyo Gas allies with 14 firms to promote LNG emission offsets

A group of 15 Japanese firms including Tokyo Gas Co. and Isuzu Motors Ltd. on Tuesday formed an alliance to promote so-called carbon-neutral liquefied natural gas as a step to offset climate change-causing emissions.

The launch came as Japan has pledged to bring its carbon dioxide emissions to net zero by 2050 and companies explore ways to meet the goal.

"Even if we aim to realize a hydrogen-based or net zero (carbon) society, CO2 emissions are increasing even now," Tokyo Gas Executive Vice-President Kunio Nohata said at a joint press conference in Tokyo with other executives of the companies.

Carbon-neutral LNG in-



Executives of companies forming an alliance to promote carbon-neutral liquefied natural gas are pictured on March 9, 2021, in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

volves energy suppliers engaging in green projects such as reforestation to offset CO2 emis-

sions produced in the process of gas extraction, liquefaction, transport and actual use.

Tokyo Gas has begun procuring LNG from Shell Eastern Trading (Pte) Ltd., with its car-

bon footprint offset by the Royal Dutch Shell plc. group firm's engagement in reforestation projects, according to the Japanese company. Energy-poor Japan relies on imports of LNG, which is less emissions-intensive than petroleum or coal. Still, reducing the costs associated with offsetting LNG emissions remains a challenge.

Isuzu, the maker of trucks and buses, has already introduced vehicles that run on compressed natural gas. The automaker will first use LNG that has had its carbon offset at a refuelling station in Kanagawa Prefecture, near Tokyo, according to Tetsuya Ikemoto, an Isuzu senior executive officer.— Kyodo News ■

Vodafone Towers unit set for €14.7bn valuation

BRITISH mobile phone giant Vodafone on Tuesday announced the price range for the upcoming German stock market flotation of its towers business, valuing the unit at up to €14.7 billion.

The float of up to one-quarter of Vantage Towers comes amid increasing demand for mobile telecommunications connectivity across Europe, driven by data growth, 5G roll-out and regulatory coverage obligations.

Mobile phone giants are also floating or selling off their tower businesses in order to slash debt.

German-headquartered Vantage Tower will have its first day of trading on the Frankfurt

stock market on or around March 18, with a price-per-share range of between €22.50 and €29, Vodafone said in a statement.

The initial public offering (IPO) "implies a total market capitalisation for Vantage Towers of €11.4 billion to €14.7 billion," it added. Digital Colony, a digital infrastructure investor and operator based in the US, has agreed to be a cornerstone investor in the IPO, alongside RRJ, a global equity fund based in Singapore, with commitments of €500 million and €450 million, respectively.—AFP ■



A cellphone tower used for a 5G network. **PHOTO: AFP**

Pakistani Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai signs Apple TV deal

PAKISTANI activist Malala Yousafzai, who won the Nobel Peace Prize as a teenager after surviving a Taliban assassination attempt, has signed a deal with Apple TV+ that will see her produce dramas and documentaries that focus on women and children.

The multi-year partnership would "draw on her ability to inspire people around the world", the company said in a statement, adding that content would also include animation and children's series.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to support women, young people, writers, and artists in reflecting the world as they see it," the 23-year-old was quoted as saying.

Yousafzai earned the wrath of the Taliban as a 10-year-old in rural northwest Pakistan when she began campaigning for education rights for girls.

At the time, the Pakistani Taliban had gained a significant foothold in the Swat Valley, imposing a fundamentalist version of Islam on areas they



Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai has signed a multi-year deal to produce content for Apple TV+. **PHOTO: AFP**

controlled -- banning education for girls and employment for women.

Yousafzai drew international attention with a series of blogs and articles she wrote about everyday life and hopes for a better future, but her fame incensed the Taliban, whose leadership ordered her murder.

In October 2012, a Taliban assassin shot the then-15-

year-old as she rode home on a bus from school. The bullet struck near her left eye, went through her neck and lodged in her shoulder.

She recovered after months of treatment at home and abroad before co-writing a best-selling memoir titled "I am Malala", which drew even more international attention.— AFP ■

China OKs world's largest free trade deal including Japan, ASEAN

THE Chinese government said Monday that it has formally ratified the world's largest free trade deal signed last year by 15 Asia-Pacific countries, including Japan, South Korea and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

China hopes other countries will speed up their processes to put into force the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, Commerce Minister Wang Wentao told reporters on the sidelines of the annual session

of the National People's Congress, the nation's parliament.

In an attempt to boost its economic influence in the region, China has also recently expressed its eagerness to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade pact, from which the United States withdrew in January 2017.

The RCEP, covering a third of global trade and population, involves ASEAN, Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea. ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia,

Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The deal will take effect after ratification by six ASEAN members and three of the other countries. Last month, Thailand ratified the pact, while the Japanese Cabinet approved a bill to follow suit.

If the free trade area is put into practice, trade and investment activities among RCEP nations would intensify on the back of measures such as

eliminating and reducing tariffs.

A special arrangement, meanwhile, was made to facilitate India's return, after New Delhi, despite being one of the founding members, skipped all negotiations since November 2019 amid concern that its trade deficit with China would grow.

India is exempted from a rule barring new entrants to the framework for 18 months following the deal's entry into force.—Kyodo News ■



Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang attends a summit meeting of countries involved in talks for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership in November 2019 in Bangkok. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

UK banks face climate conflicts of interest: study

BRITISH banks face potential conflicts of interest over climate change because almost 80 per cent of board members have links with high-polluting sectors, a study showed on Tuesday.

DeSmog, an investigative climate campaign group, revealed the main finding of its research into UK banks' management.

A majority of 50 out of the top 64 directors at the five biggest UK banks – Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds, NatWest and Standard Chartered – have past or present links to major polluters, DeSmog said in a statement. And one

quarter of directors have, or have had, direct links with the carbon-intensive fossil fuel sector, it added.

"The analysis... shows many of the banks' directors have close ties to polluting industries and their financial backers, either as current directors, advisors or previous employees," DeSmog concluded. "This could affect their ability to be impartial judges of shareholder resolutions trying to push the banks to actually end financing of fossil fuels."

Standard Chartered declined to comment. Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds and NatWest did not im-

mmediately respond to requests for comment.

The corporate world meanwhile faces mounting demands to respond to climate change.

NatWest chief executive Alison Rose has put the climate high on her agenda by pledging to end loans for coal projects by 2030. HSBC aims to achieve net-zero carbon emissions across its investments by 2050. Both Barclays and HSBC meanwhile face shareholder motions to curb or phase out exposure to fossil fuels.—AFP ■

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(Classes 3, 25 and 35)

VICTORIA'S SECRET

(Classes 3, 18, 25 and 35)

The above Trademarks are used in respect of the following goods and services:

(For both marks) "Personal care products, namely, bath gels, bath soaps in liquid, solid or gel form, body balm, namely, body butters, body creams, body lotions, body scrub, body washes for humans, bubble bath, shower gels, bath bombs, non-medicated bath salts, cream soaps for hand and body, perfume, eau de parfum, eau de toilette, cologne, body spray used as a personal deodorant and as fragrance, hand creams, hand lotions, hand soaps, massage oils, facial masks, sunscreen preparations, sunscreen cream; hair care preparations, namely, lotions, creams, shampoo, 3-in-1 hair shampoos, dry shampoo, conditioner, hair sprays and hair gel." in Class 3

(For VICTORIA'S SECRET) "Cosmetic bags sold empty; cosmetic carrying cases sold empty; handbags, purses, clutches, wallets, wrist purses; all-purpose carrying bags; belt bags; beach bags; backpacks; gym bags; tote bags; travel bags; duffle bags; cross body bags." in Class 18

(For both marks) "Bras; bralettes; strapless bras; bandeaus, sports bras; camisoles; panties, bikinis, thong underwear; swimwear; beach clothes; sleepwear, namely, lingerie, robes, boxers, shorts, pajamas, sleep dress, sleep shirts, one-piece sleeper, pants, sweatshirts, jackets, t-shirts, clothing, namely, tops, shirts, tank tops, tube tops, bottoms, pants, shorts, skirts, vests, sweaters, sweatshirts, hooded sweatshirts, warm-up suits, tights, leggings, belts, loungewear, sweatpants, yoga pants, yoga shirts; headwear, namely, hats, caps; footwear, namely, socks, sandals, flip flops, sports shoes, boots, slippers; activewear, namely, athletic shorts, athletic tights, sport shirts, sport jerseys, sports pants, lounge pants, yoga pants; jogging pants, track pants, leggings, leotards, tights; hosiery; outerwear, namely, jackets, coats, scarves, gloves. in Class 25

(For PINK VICTORIA'S SECRET) "Retail store, catalog and on-line ordering services in the fields of personal care products and accessories, tote bags, travel bags, all-purpose bags, clutches, handbags, clothing and accessories; bonus incentive programs for customers." in Class 35

(For VICTORIA'S SECRET) "Retail stores services and online retail store services in the field of clothing, lingerie, intimate wear, leather goods, bags, luggage, fashion accessories, eyewear, jewelry, footwear, perfumery, cosmetics, personal care products, toiletries and accessories." in Class 35

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the above Trademarks or other infringement whatsoever thereto will be dealt with according to law.

Daw Yee Mon Aung, (Advocate)
For Victoria's Secret Stores Brand Management, LLC
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V NEGAR VOY. NO. (SCY1095)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NEGAR VOY. NO. (SCY1095)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **10-3-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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NEWS
IN BRIEF

Senegal opposition group drops protest call

A Senegalese opposition group on Tuesday suspended calls for massive protests in the West African state after a judge freed opposition leader Ousmane Sonko from detention.

"The demonstrations scheduled for March 9 and 10 are suspended," the Movement for Defence of Democracy, or M2D, said in a statement.

It added it would outline plans for future protests at a press conference on Tuesday.

Usually seen as a haven of stability of a volatile region, Senegal was rocked by deadly clashes between opposition supporters and security forces which began last week and continued through Monday.

At least five people died in the unrest, sparked on Wednesday by the arrest of Sonko, a government critic popular with young people.

Over the weekend, the M2D, which includes Sonko's Pastef party, had called for three days of large-scale demonstrations against his arrest, starting Monday. —AFP ■

Mexican election season brings wave of violence

MEXICO is reeling from a surge in political violence ahead of upcoming elections, with dozens of politicians murdered at the hands of criminal gangs vying for influence.

At least 66 Mexican politicians have been murdered since September in a blood-stained electoral campaign, including two mayoral candidates killed on the same day last week.

Kidnapping, threats against relatives, arson attacks on homes and extortion are also among the tactics used by drug cartels and other crime gangs to entrench their power.

"Criminal organizations seek to strengthen their operations through intimidation and increasing their political influence," Security Minister Rosa Rodriguez said. —AFP ■

Brazil judge clears ex-leader Lula to run again in 2022



Former Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, shown here in 2019, has had his graft convictions overturned. **PHOTO: AFP**

A Brazilian Supreme Court judge on Monday overturned the graft convictions against former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, clearing the way for the left-wing leader to run in the 2022 presidential election.

Justice Edson Fachin overturned all convictions against the popular-but-tarnished ex-president (2003-2010), stemming from a probe into a massive corruption scheme centred on Brazilian state oil company Petrobras.

Fachin ruled the court in the southeastern city of Curitiba

that convicted Lula "lacked jurisdiction," and sent a total of four related cases against him to a federal court in the capital, Brasilia.

Lula, 75, regains the right to run for office unless the convictions are reinstated.

The decision, which was procedural, did not go into the merits of the cases.

The prosecutor general's office said it would appeal.

The full Supreme Court could overturn Fachin's ruling, though legal experts said that was unlikely. —AFP ■

Syrian heritage suffered 'cultural apocalypse'

A decade of war has not only destroyed Syria's present and poisoned its future, it has damaged beyond repair some of its fabled past.

Syria was an archaeologist's paradise, a world heritage home to some of the oldest and best-preserved jewels of ancient civilizations.

The conflict that erupted in 2011 is arguably the worst of the 21st century so far on a humanitarian level, but the wanton destruction of heritage was possibly the worst in generations. In a few years, archaeological sites were damaged, museums were looted and old city centres were levelled.

Standing in front of a restored artefact in the Palmyra museum he ran for 20 years, Khalil al-Hariri remembers the trauma of having to flee the desert city and its treasures as they fell into the hands of the so-called Islamic State group. "I have lived many difficult days. We were besieged several times in the museum," he said, recounting how

he and his team stayed behind as late as possible to ferry artefacts to safety.

"But the most difficult day of my life was the day I returned to Palmyra and saw the broken antiquities and the museum in shambles," said Hariri, now 60 years old. "They broke and smashed all the faces of statues

that remained in the museum and which we could not save. Some of them can be restored, but others have completely crumbled."

'Venice of the Sands'

Palmyra is a majestic ancient city whose influence peaked towards the end of the Roman empire and was famously ruled by Queen Zenobia in the 3rd century.



Palmyra, famed for its imposing kilometre-long colonnade, peaked towards the end of the Roman empire and was famously ruled by Queen Zenobia in the 3rd century. **PHOTO: AFP**

Eritrea's murky role in Ethiopia conflict

ERITREA, one of the world's most repressive and secretive states, has played a major role in a military operation that Ethiopia launched last year against the dissident leaders of its northern Tigray region.

Soldiers from Eritrea, which borders Tigray, have been accused by residents and rights groups of massacres in several locations that figure among the worst atrocities recorded in the conflict.

Eritrea is a bitter enemy of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) -- the party which dominated Ethiopian politics for nearly three decades before falling by the wayside with the appointment of Abiy Ahmed as prime minister in 2018.

Animosity

However the current leaders of Eritrea and the TPLF were not always foes.

In 1991 they were allies

when a coalition of Ethiopian fighters led by the TPLF ousted dictator Mengistu Hailemariam with the key support of separatist rebels from Eritrea -- then still a part of Ethiopia.

Eritrea gained its independence in 1993, rendering Ethiopia landlocked as it lost access to its crucial Red Sea ports.

Relations between the two rapidly deteriorated over territorial and economic disputes. —AFP ■

In May 1998, Asmara and Addis Ababa went to war over the disputed town of Badme, a conflict that would be marked by trench warfare and large-scale pitched battles.

A peace deal signed in December 2000 put an end to the war which left 80,000 dead and instilled deep distrust and enmity between the leaders of the two countries as the issue of Badme remained unresolved. —AFP ■

Coronavirus set to dominate Dutch elections

DUTCH voters head to the polls next week in the first major test of a European government's coronavirus policies in 2021, with Prime Minister Mark Rutte on course to win a fourth term in office.

Despite the Netherlands recently suffering the worst riots for decades over its Covid curfew, Rutte leads in the polls as the Dutch appear to rally around the flag after a year of the pandemic.

The virus has dominated the debate ahead of the March 17 vote, leaving little space for other issues such as the anti-immigration message of the anti-Islam, EU-bashing opposition leader Geert Wilders.

Some polling stations will open on March 15 and 16 for the elderly and the Covid-vulnerable.

"This election of course it's



Some Dutch polling stations will open early for elderly and Covid-vulnerable people to vote. **PHOTO: AFP**

very much Covid and also the economic decline crisis that will emerge from this," Andre Krouwel, who teaches political science at the Vrije Universiteit

Amsterdam, told AFP.

"That changes from previous elections when it was more about immigration and European integration."

A total of 37 parties, the most for decades, are competing for 150 seats in the Dutch lower house of parliament, in a crowded political landscape

that usually produces unwieldy coalitions.

Rutte's liberal VVD (People's Party for Freedom and Democracy) currently has 33 seats and leads a four-party coalition along with the conservative Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA) and Christian Union, and the centre-left D66.

'Rally around the flag'

The elections will be closely watched in Europe as the Netherlands is the eurozone's fifth biggest economy, and the strongest voice besides Germany for financial discipline.

One of Europe's longest serving leaders, Rutte is now in his 11th year in power.

His party has consistently led opinion polls for months, though his popularity has dipped a little in recent weeks.—AFP ■

Belgium carries out vast drugs sting operation



Police in Belgium staged a vast sting operation against drug traffickers Tuesday, with the main focus on the port of Antwerp, a major hub for Europe's cocaine trade. **PHOTO: AFP**

POLICE in Belgium staged a vast sting operation against drug traffickers Tuesday, with the main focus on the port of Antwerp, a major hub for Europe's cocaine trade.

More than 1,500 police conducted some 200 searches simul-

taneously since 5 am (0300 GMT) in "one of the biggest operations ever organized on Belgian territory", a spokesman for the federal prosecutor's office told AFP.

The operation is being steered by the federal prosecutor's office and the Antwerp pub-

lic prosecutor's office. According to broadcaster RTBF, the operation mainly targets drug traffickers in Antwerp, particularly those involved in the cocaine trade, as well as the broader organized crime gangs connected to them.

The federal prosecutor's office does not plan to release further information, pending the outcome of the operation and a possible press conference for Wednesday morning in Brussels.

An all-time record of 65.5 tonnes of cocaine were seized last year at the Port of Antwerp, Europe's second-biggest port.

The drugs come from Latin America - principally Colombia, Brazil and Ecuador - and are usually found hidden away in cargo containers offloaded from ships.—AFP ■

Anger over lies which led to killing of French teacher

THE lawyer for the family of beheaded French teacher Samuel Paty expressed her anger on Tuesday over lies spread on social media which identified Paty.

Paty, a secondary school teacher in a town near Paris, was killed last October by a radical Chechen teenager

after showing cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed to students during a civics class about free speech.

A 13-year-old schoolgirl has confessed to police that she lied about being in attendance and falsely accused Paty of asking Muslim children to leave the class while he showed the pictures.

Her father, who has been charged in connection with

the murder, posted several incendiary videos on Facebook afterwards based on his daughter's testimony which identified Paty.

"Everything in the investigation showed very early that she lied," the Paty family's lawyer Virginie Le Roy told RTL radio on Tuesday.

She said she was "sceptical" of the version of events recounted by the girl who has said she saw herself as a spokesperson for other pupils and wanted to impress her father.

"A spokesperson of what? Of lies, of events that never happened? This explanation does not convince me and makes me rather angry because the facts are serious, they're tragic," Le Roy added.—AFP ■

Desert country Jordan aims for green with 10-million tree campaign

ON a bare hill in Jordan's verdant Ajloun region, dozens of people plant saplings as part of a reforestation effort that aims to reach 10 million trees in 10 years.

"The trees in our region are beautiful," says 11-year-old Mohammed al-Ananza, helping his father Mustafa plant a carob sapling.

"It's a real shame that we

have lost so many to fires... We should work together to protect them," he says as they work near the Kufranjah forest north of the capital Amman.

Forests make up only 1% of the desert kingdom's territory, according to the agriculture ministry, though Jordan also has an estimated 23 million orchard trees, half of them olives.

Forest fires strike almost

every year in the Middle Eastern country due to high summer temperatures, in a trend scientists expect to intensify with climate change.

The blazes are often started by picnickers' barbecues or carelessly discarded cigarettes.

There were 499 fires in wood and forest areas last year alone, according to the agriculture ministry.—AFP ■



The lawyer for the family of beheaded French teacher Samuel Paty expressed her anger on Tuesday over lies spread on social media which led to the murder. **PHOTO: AFP**

YUFC build stronger team for new football season

YANGON United has previously confirmed their better and stronger squad for the 2021 Myanmar National League football season, according to the previous statement of the football team.

"We are pleased to confirm

the final squad list of Yangon United for the 2021 season with 31 players. However, the competition will be played with 30 players.

We have added 11 new players in total which are 9 local

players and 2 foreign players. Besides, Arkar Lin Myat (GK), Sithu Moe Khant, and Zaw Win Thein from Yangon United Youth team advance to the Senior team, and the team training session will start with 31 players

in total," said the Yangon United football authorities.

Three of Yangon United players—Aung Kyaw Naing, Zin Min Tun, and Caleb will out on loan. And the contracts of Thein Than Win, Than Paing, Kyaw

Swar Lin, Htoo Khant Lwin, Soe Min Naing, and Yan Aung Kyaw expired in December 2020 and their positions were replaced recently, according to the previous statement with the football club.

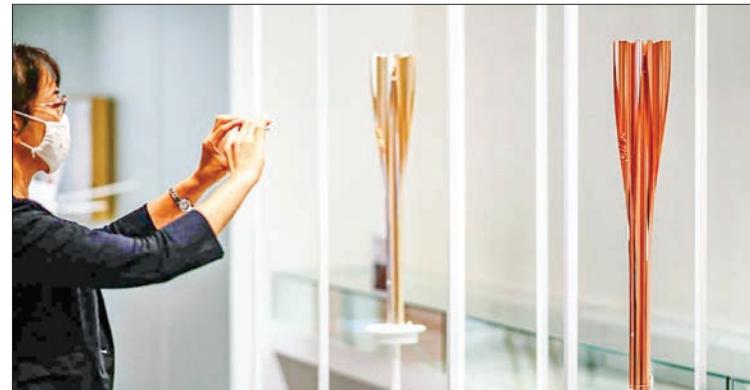
—GNLM ■

Fans likely to be barred from Olympic torch relay start: Report

TOKYO— The starting ceremony for this month's Olympic torch relay will likely be held without spectators, a Japanese newspaper reported on Tuesday (Mar 9), but fans will still be able to line the route.

The Yomiuri Shimbun daily reported that organisers fear crowding at the Mar 25 event in Fukushima, and will probably bar the 3,000 spectators initially planned.

Tokyo 2020 organizers did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the report, which cited an unnamed source. The organizers have already laid out strict rules for the virus-delayed, nationwide relay, which was called off in 2020 after the historic decision to postpone the Games by a year. Cheering along the relay route will be strictly banned, and people are asked to



The virus-delayed torch relay is scheduled to begin in Japan's Fukushima on Mar 25. **PHOTO: AFP**

only attend sections near their homes and avoid crowding. Mask-wearing will be mandatory, and spectators are asked to offer "support with applause and by using distributed goods rather than shouting or cheering". Portions of the relay could also be suspended if there is overcrowding.

Organizers are battling per-

sistent doubts about whether the Games can be held safely this summer and have unveiled a rulebook with various virus countermeasures.

They are set to decide this month on whether foreign fans will be able to attend, with limits on overall spectator numbers to be set next month. —AFP ■

Expert panel begins debating cause of Maradona's death

BUENOS Aires—A panel of 20 experts began a debate on Monday into the cause of Argentine football icon Diego Maradona's death to determine if there was negligence on the part of health care professionals.

Maradona, who was 60, died of a heart attack on November 25, just weeks after undergoing brain surgery on a blood clot.

Investigators are looking into the health treatment he received prior to his death to determine whether or not to bring a case of wrongful death, a conviction for which would result in a prison sentence of up to 15 years. The panel of experts, made up of 10 official specialists and 10 more selected by the interested parties, is due to deliver its findings in two or

three weeks.

It was convened by Argentina's public prosecutor.

Maradona's neurosurgeon Leopoldo Luque, psychiatrist Agustina Cosachov and psychologist Carlos Diaz are under investigation as well as two nurses, a nursing coordinator and a medical coordinator.

Two of the football great's daughters -- Gianinna, 31, and Jana, 24 -- have accused Luque of responsibility in Maradona's deteriorating health.

Maradona underwent surgery on November 3, just four days after he celebrated his 60th birthday at the club he coached, Gimnasia y Esgrima.

However, he appeared in poor health then and had trouble speaking. —AFP ■

Messi to Paris: Barcelona's nightmare, and PSG's unattainable dream?

PARIS—AS Lionel Messi comes to Paris this week with Barcelona in the Champions League, the inevitable temptation is to think ahead to next season and wonder if the Argentine might be a regular fixture in the French capital.

That remains the nightmare scenario for Barcelona fans, even if their new president Joan Laporta announced following his election victory on Sunday that he was "convinced he wants to stay".

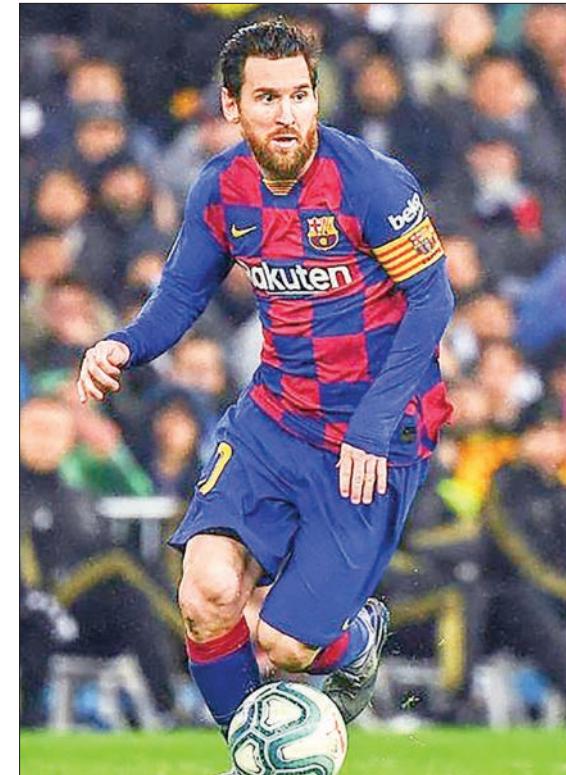
Barcelona, like Real Madrid, fear the threat to their status at the top of the European game posed by Qatar-owned PSG and Abu Dhabi-owned Manchester City. On the evidence of the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie, PSG have bypassed Barca. Their 4-1 win at the Camp Nou means it would take a stunning turnaround in Wednesday's

return to stop them reaching the quarter-finals. A move to one of Spain's giants was long seen as the pinnacle for any player, but times have changed, as proven by Neymar's transfer to Paris for a world record 222 million euros (\$264m at the time) in 2017. PSG and City are probably the only likely destinations for Messi should he leave. But could a switch to Paris really happen?

'Reserved a seat just in case'

"Great players like Messi will always be on PSG's list," insisted the French champions' sporting director Leonardo in a January interview with France Football magazine.

"We are sat at the big table with all those who are keeping a close eye on it. Well, we are not sat down yet, but we have reserved a seat just in case." —AFP ■



The chances of seeing Lionel Messi at PSG may depend on Kylian Mbappe, whose contract is up at the end of next season. **PHOTO: AFP**